

The Time of Jesus Christ



An Allegory of the Old and New Law, Has Holbein, 1533.

“The New Testament has to be read in the light of the Old,” the Church tells us. “As an old saying put it, the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New”

(CCC, 129).

‘Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.’

St Jerome, *Ex Prólogo commentariórum sancti Hierónymi presbýteri in Isaíam prophétam* (1. 2: CCL 73, 1-3)

Jesus fulfills the promises of the 5 covenants.

Earlier covenants: God's pledges to do certain things. eg, to Noah, not to destroy the world by water again; to Abraham that by his descendants the nations of the world would be blessed.

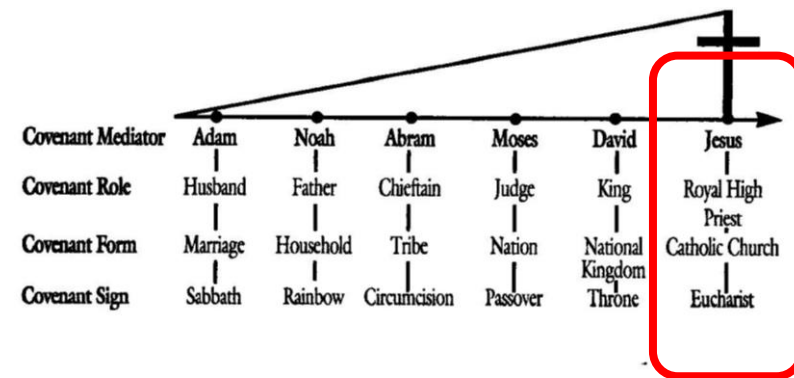
By the end of the Old Testament it doesn't seem like these promises have been fulfilled. All nations hadn't been blessed through Abraham's descendants. Abraham's children scattered. The "everlasting covenant" with David seems abandoned.

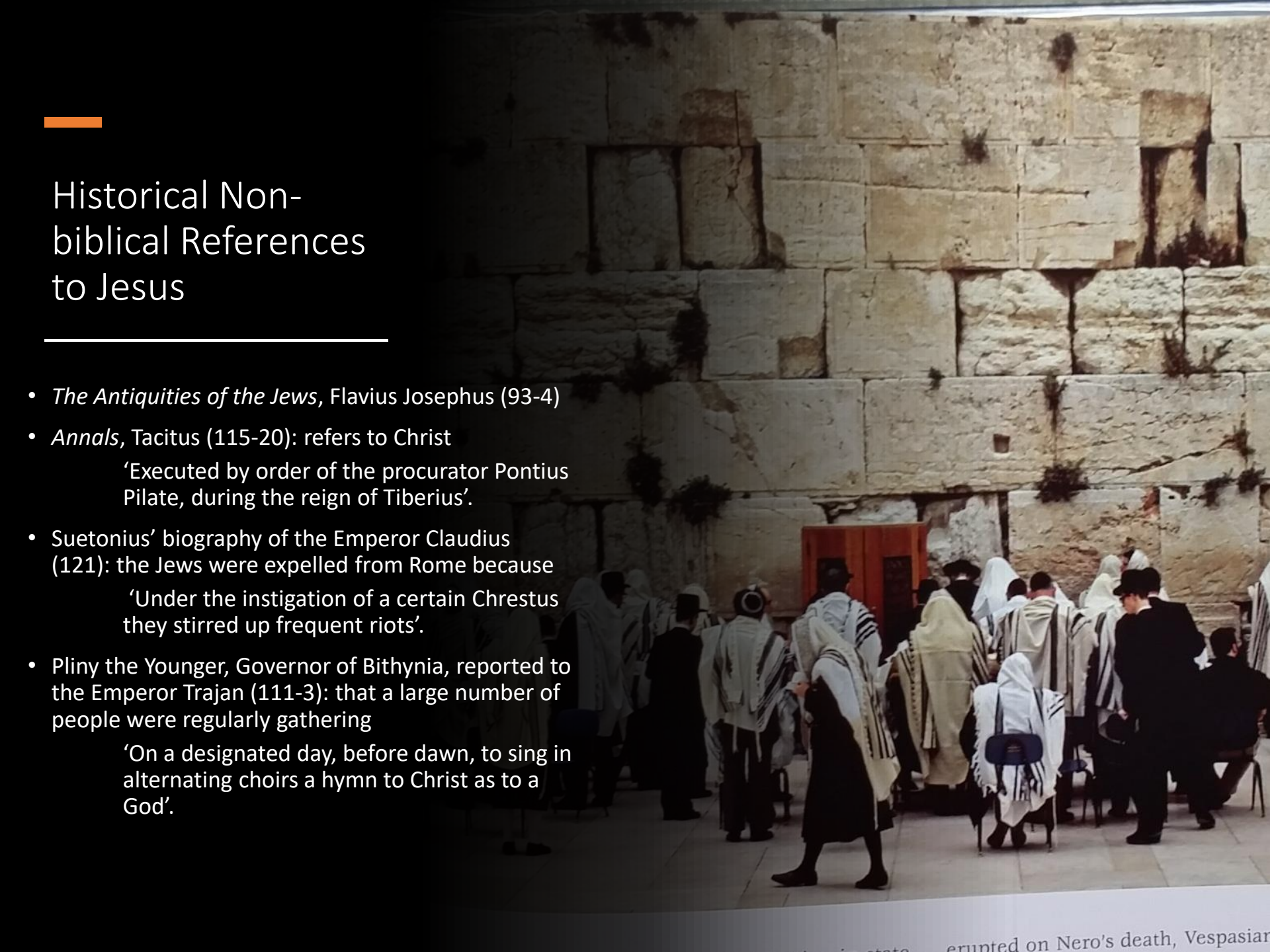
Promises to David: A son of David would reign on David's throne forever; kingdom would extend to all nations; David's son would be His son, the son of God; he would build a Temple & be a priest forever, like Melchizedek.

But after Solomon: kingdom divided, invasion & exile. After exile time passed.

Time of Jesus: no kingdom, no Davidic heir. Await fulfillment of God's promises, the consolation of Israel, coming of new son of David & revival of the Kingdom.

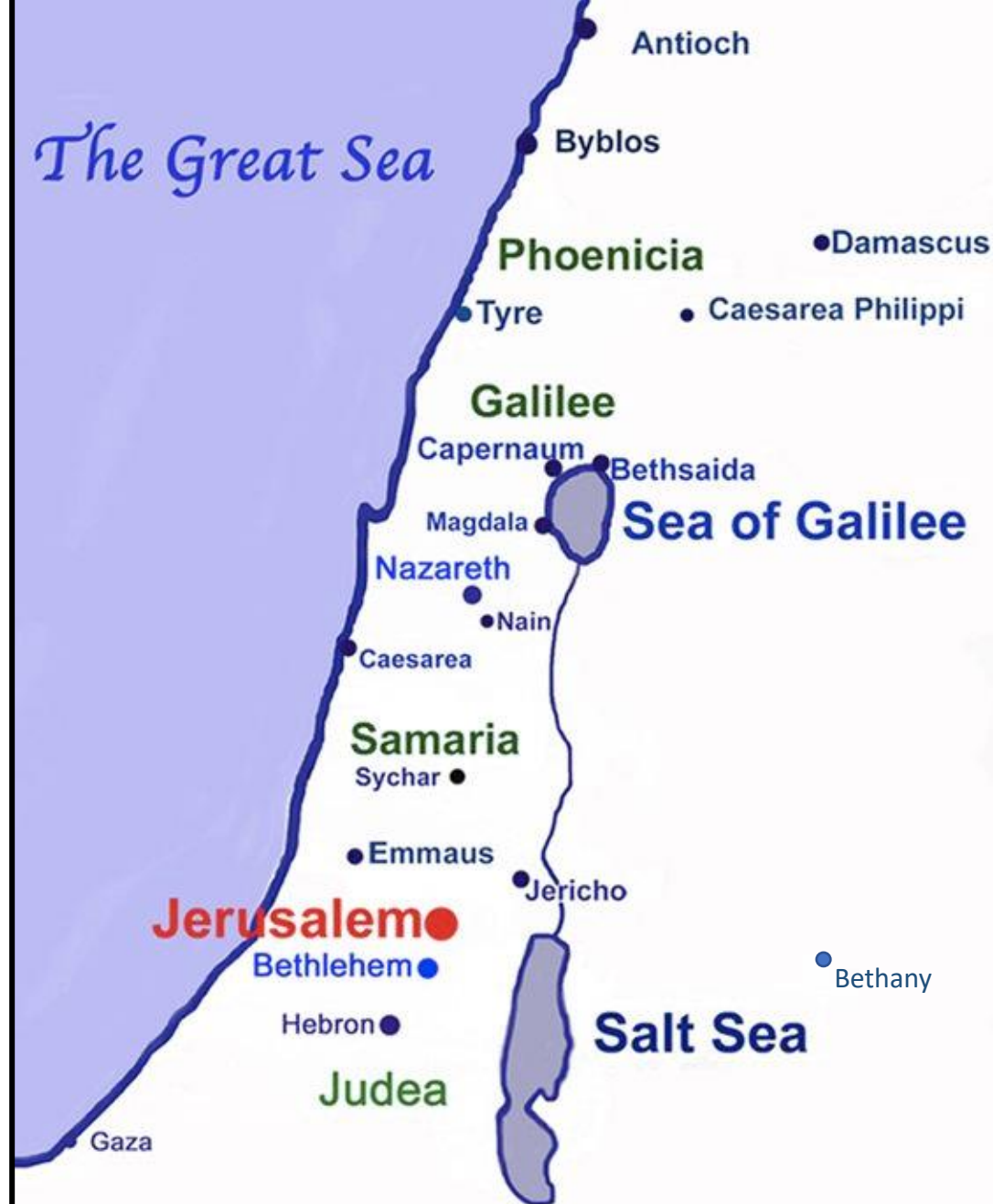
'In many & various ways God spoke to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son' (Heb 1:1-2).





Historical Non-biblical References to Jesus

- *The Antiquities of the Jews*, Flavius Josephus (93-4)
- *Annals*, Tacitus (115-20): refers to Christ
'Executed by order of the procurator Pontius Pilate, during the reign of Tiberius'.
- Suetonius' biography of the Emperor Claudius (121): the Jews were expelled from Rome because
'Under the instigation of a certain Chrestus they stirred up frequent riots'.
- Pliny the Younger, Governor of Bithynia, reported to the Emperor Trajan (111-3): that a large number of people were regularly gathering
'On a designated day, before dawn, to sing in alternating choirs a hymn to Christ as to a God'.



The Holy Land in the Time of Christ



How Does Jesus Fulfil the Covenants?

The fulfillment of God's oath to David comes with Jesus, The New Testament shows Jesus as the "new David" & His Church as the restored kingdom promised to David.

Jesus is shown as fulfilling all God's earlier covenant promises –

- He is the new Adam
- He is a new Noah
- He is the new son of Abraham
- He is the new Moses

The New Testament begins referring to the earlier covenants:

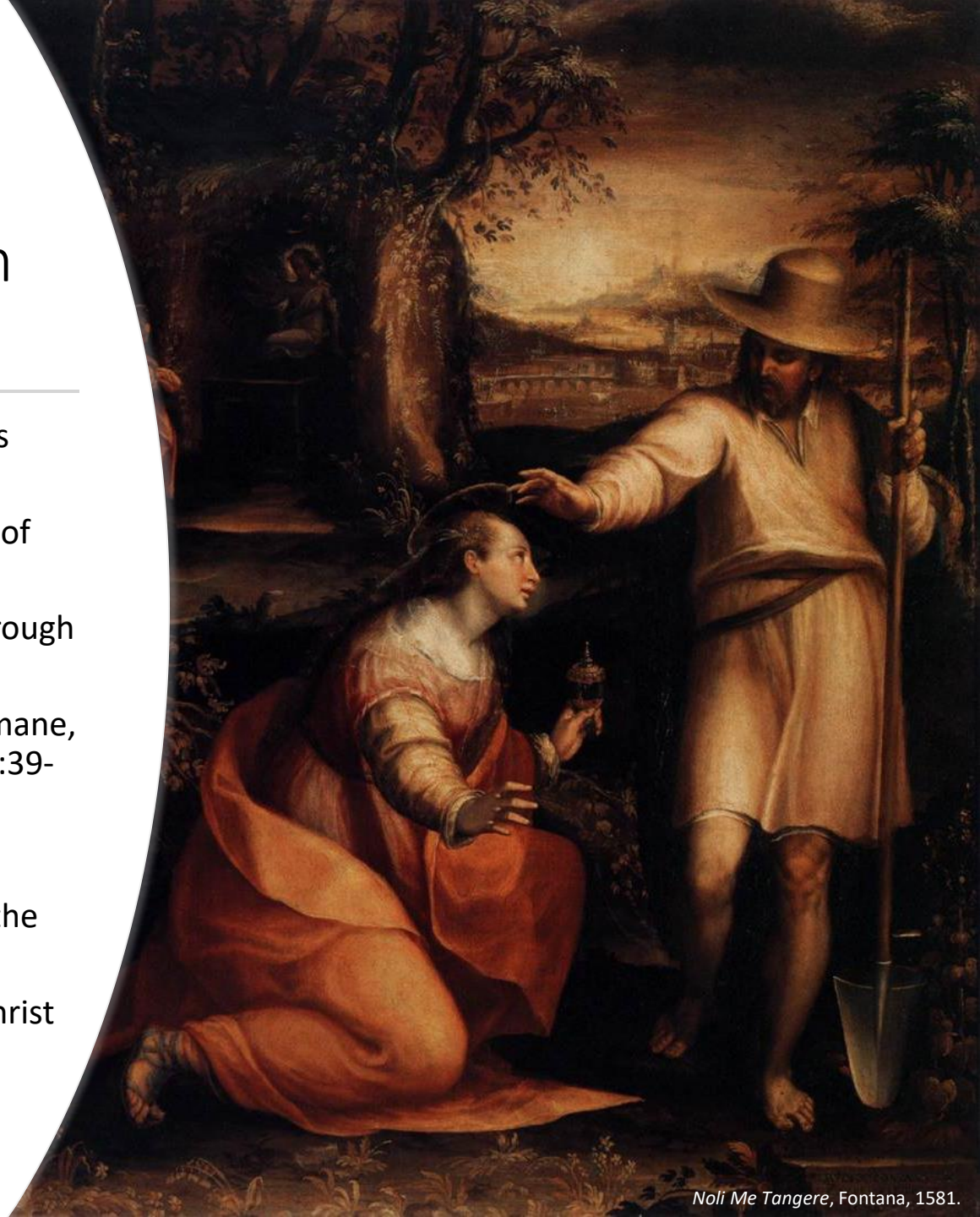
"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Mt 1:1).

'Genealogy' points us back to creation, to *Genesis*. It also refers us to God's covenants with David & Abraham. 3 of the 5 peaks of salvation history: Adam, Abraham & David.

The New Testament is the book about the new world created by Jesus, the Messiah, the promised son of David, in whom God fulfills His promise to Abraham, that in his descendants all peoples will be blessed.

Jesus: The New Adam

- Brings about a new creation, restores humankind to the paradise promised.
- Mary, the New Eve, "unties the knot of Eve's disobedience"
- Death through the 1st Adam; Life through the New Adam
- Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, "...not as I will, but as you will" (Lk 22:39-44)
- Goes to the Tree of Life
- His perfect obedience makes up for the disobedience of Adam.
- On Easter Sunday, the resurrected Christ appears in a garden



The New Noah

Bringing about a flood that saves, the waters of Baptism.



Jesus, Son of Abraham

The Covenant with Abraham: involved the gift of a son, Isaac, whose descendants were to be the source of blessing for all the earth.

- Jesus is “the son of Abraham” in whom all the nations of the world will find blessing.

Jesus & the Sacrifice of Abraham

- He is the “only beloved son” of the Father (Mt 3:17; Jn 3:16)
- Calvary is one of the peaks of Mt Moriah
- Jesus carries the wood of the sacrifice
- God provides himself as the lamb
- God receives his son back on the third day



The Sacrifice of Abraham, Domenichino, 1627.

Jesus: The New Moses

- A new Passover & a new exodus, deliverance from sin by Cross & Resurrection, opening promised land of heaven.
- Like Moses, born during the reign of a ruler who orders the killing of Hebrew baby boys.
- Find safety in Egypt & comes out
- Called back to birthplace after exile
- Passes through the water (baptism) & into the desert where fasts 40 days & 40 nights & is tested. Jesus goes right where Israel went wrong
- Moses descends from Mt Sinai to give Israel the law; Jesus gives the law of the New Covenant in Sermon on the Mount
- Transfigured
- Heavenly bread -the New Manna
- Appoints 12 leaders, then 70
- The true Passover Lamb
- End spiritual bondage - New Exodus



The New Passover

- **Israel's Passover**
- A lamb was sacrificed; Christ is the sacrificial Lamb of God
- Its blood was shed; His blood is shed for the world's salvation
- Family meal; We are nourished by Christ's Body & Blood
- Partakers spared from death; Through the Eucharist we receive life

- **The New Passover**
- The Last Supper: the Passover.
- Begins the New Covenant
- The 3rd cup
- 'It is finished' – the sacrifice of the New Covenant begun at the Last Supper



The Last Supper, Huguet, 1470.

Jesus, the New David

Jesus is called "Christ," Messiah or "anointed one." Points us to the covenant with David - the Davidic figure that many of Israel's prophets said would deliver Israel & restore the kingdom to Israel.

Promises of the Everlasting Covenant (2 Sam 7:8-17/ Luke 1:32-33)

- "A great name" / "He will be great"
- "He shall be my son" / "Son of the Most High"
- "Establish the throne" / "God ... give him the throne of His father David"
- "Forever" / "Reign forever"
- God's "firstborn" son / The eternal Son
- Messiah = "anointed one" / THE Messiah



King David, Nicholas Cordier, 1612.



The Birth of the Messiah

How Jesus Fulfils the Covenants & Prophecies

Annunciation & Visitation

Jesus is the long-awaited son of David, the son of God sent to restore the kingdom to Israel.

- **The Annunciation:** God will give Jesus "the throne of David His father, & He will rule over the house of Jacob forever & of His kingdom there will be no end" (Lk 1:32-33). Jesus is the son of David; he will rule over a restored kingdom of Israel ("the house of Jacob") for all time.
- **The Visitation:** echoes promises of salvation history. *Magnificat* - Jesus' coming is God's answer to all Israel's prayers, a fulfillment of "His promises to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever" (Lk 1:55). Mary's Son will fulfill God's covenant promise to Abraham - that "in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing" (Gn 22:18).
- **Birth of John the Baptist:** *Canticle of Zechariah* (Lk 1:67-79). Zechariah prophesies that God is visiting & saving His people, accomplishing what "He promised through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old." In Jesus, God has "raised up a horn of salvation within the house of David...mindful of His holy covenant & of the oath He swore to Abraham."



Zachary and Gabriel, c. 1800.

The Nativity: Narrated in a Davidic Key

Bethlehem:

- The city of King David
- The Messiah is expected in Bethlehem, a shepherd to the chosen people (Micah 5:1-2 & 2 Sam 5:2).

Virgin Birth:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child & bear a son, & they shall call him Emmanuel" (Mt 1:3). Isaiah foretold the birth to a virgin of a savior-like king who would be born of David's line & be called "Emmanuel," (*God with us*) (Is 7:13-14).



The Temple



The Presentation in the Temple, Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Alsace, Bas-Rhin, Hochfelden, 19th Century.

Presentation in the Temple:

Simeon sees the "salvation" promised by God fulfilled in Jesus, "glory for Your people Israel" & "a light for revelation to the Gentiles". Echoes of Isaiah.

- Invokes "universal" promises about David's kingdom, stretching to the ends of the earth, embracing all nations & peoples (Ps 2:8; 72:8,11).
- Promise to Abraham. By the Davidic King & Kingdom "shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed, all the nations" (Ps 72:17).
- Son of David: would be God's son. Would build a "house," a Temple to heavenly Father's name. Partially fulfilled by Solomon & Temple. Jesus is true Son of David; will build a "temple" to God's name - His body & the Church (Jn 2:21; Mt 16:18).

Finding in the Temple:

"Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" (Lk 2:49).

The New Moses



Jesus' Baptism: "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased" (Mk 1:11) echoes God's promise that David's son will be God's son & will rule the nations (Ps 2:7-9). Then Jesus goes into the wilderness & is tempted by the devil.

The New Moses: Parallels between the early life of Jesus & Moses.

- Herod & Pharaoh kill the Hebrew male children (Ex 1:15-16; Mt 2:16-18).
- Rescued by a family member (Ex 2:1-10). Joseph takes Jesus to Egypt, birthplace of Moses, 1st deliverer of God's people (Mt 2:13-15; Ex 2:5-10).
- Called back to their birthplaces after exile (Mt 2:20; Ex 4:19).
- Liberators: Moses liberated the Israelites with "exodus" from Egypt. Jesus' begins a "new exodus" (Mt 3:17 and Ex 4:22; Ps 2:7; Is 42:1; Gn 22:1).
- Israel crossed the Red Sea & tested in the desert for 40 years. After Baptism in the Jordan Jesus is tempted by the devil for 40 days & nights (Mt 4:1-2; Ex 15:25; 16:1; Dt 8:2-3; 1 Cor 10:1-5).

Temptation in the Desert

Like the Israelites, Jesus faces three temptations.

1. **Hunger:** tempted, as Israel was, to grumble against God (Ex 16:1-13).
2. **To put God to the test:** to demand that God prove His promise to care for Him. Israel had the same temptation at Massah (Ex 17:1-6; Nm 20:2-13; Ps 95:79).
3. **To worship false gods:** like Israel & the golden calf (Ex 32).

Jesus answers each temptation with quotes from *Deuteronomy* where Moses explains the lessons Israel was supposed to learn from its years in the desert (Mt 4:4, 4:7, 4:10; Dt 6:12-15. 8:3).



The Temptation of Christ, Duccio di Buoninsegna, c. 1308.

The Sermon on the Mount: The Kingdom

- Moses & Jesus fasted 40 days & nights in wilderness.
- Moses & Jesus then climb a "mount" to give the law of God.
- Moses on Mount Sinai: a Law by which the people were to live in the "promised land." Jesus, Sermon on the Mount: a New Law for the new promised land, "the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3,10).
- New law doesn't abolish the Old Law or the prophets. Jesus fulfills Law & prophets (Mt 5:17).
- Jesus New Law: for all mankind, a worldwide Kingdom.
- Dominant Theme: The Kingdom. Not a political institution but the Family of God.
- The "Our Father" & "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done." (Mt 6:9). The "kingdom of heaven" is the centre of all Jesus' preaching & miracles, the center of what He sent His Apostles out to teach.
- "Do you not know that the Lord, the God of Israel, has given the kingdom of Israel to David forever, to him & to his sons, by a covenant made in salt?" (2 Cr 13:5). Jesus: "You are the salt of the earth" (Mt 5:13).
- New people of God are "the light of the world", "city set on a mountain" (Mt 5:14), evoking Isaiah where the restored kingdom, will be a "light to the nations" (Is 42:6; 49:6).
- Jerusalem: spiritual capital, city of David & Temple, set on holy mountain, to become the seat of wisdom for all nations (Is 2:2-3;11:9).
- Miracles: show He is the Messiah. Makes the deaf hear, mute speak & blind see. 'Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, & the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, & the tongue of the dumb sing for joy' (Is 35:5-6; Jr 31:7-9; Mk 7:31-37; 11:47,49).



The Sermon on the Mount, Fra Angelico, 1437.



The Good Shepherd, Catacomb of St Callisto, 3rd c.

The Good Shepherd

David: a shepherd. Jesus is the good shepherd promised by Ezekiel & others. Jesus the Messiah came as a good shepherd to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Jn 10:11; Hb 13:20; Mt 10:6; 15:24; Ez 34:23; 37:24).

Jesus feeds 5,000 (Mk 6:34-44) "for they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mk 6:34). Also looks forward to His continuing to feed His sheep in Eucharist.

Miracle of the loaves: He takes the bread; blesses it; breaks it; gives it. The Last Supper. He takes the bread; blesses it; breaks it; gives it (Mk 6:41, 14:22; Mt 14:19, 26:26; Lk 9:16, 22:19; 1 Cor 11:23,26).

The Good Shepherd seeks out His lost sheep; promises to feed them, to give them their daily bread.

The Keys to the Kingdom

- 12 officers rule Solomon's kingdom; 12 Apostles to lead Jesus' kingdom (1 Kg 4:7; Mt 19:28).
- Solomon built the Temple on a large foundation stone. Peter (rock). "On this rock I will build my Church" (Is 28:16; Mt 16:18).
- Jesus Kingdom = 'my Church'. Gives Peter supreme authority in His Kingdom, the Church, the "keys to the kingdom of heaven", & power to "bind & loose." Only other such mention of keys in Scripture is in Isaiah about the Davidic kingdom. Isaiah prophesies God's transfer of "the key of the House of David" from a corrupt master of the palace named Shebna to a righteous servant, Eliakin.

*'I will place on his shoulder the **key** of the house of David; he shall open, & none shall shut; & he shall shut, & none shall open' (Is 22:22).*

*I will give you the **keys** of the kingdom of heaven, & whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt 16:19).*

- In the Davidic Kingdom, king appointed a vizier of the palace to handle day-to-day affairs of the Kingdom, "a father to the inhabitants" of the Kingdom (Is 22:22; 1 Kg 4:1-6; 16:9; 18:3; 2 Kg 15:5; 18:18,37;19:2). Peter is "prime minister" of the restored Kingdom of David, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Church. "Keys" symbolize King's power, authority, & control (Rv 22:16; 3:7; 1:8).
- "Binding" and "loosing": authority of rabbis in Jesus' time, who made "binding" & "loosing" decisions about interpretation & enforcement of the Law, what was & was not permitted under the Law. In the Church, Peter is the ultimate teaching authority.

The Church

Jesus Christ expands the Kingdom of God to the international, worldwide family of God through the Catholic Church.

In this last covenant salvation history reaches its goal:

All things are united in Christ, and we are restored as children of God. All the nations are brought into God's divine covenantal family through Jesus Christ.

Salvation history is still unfolding.



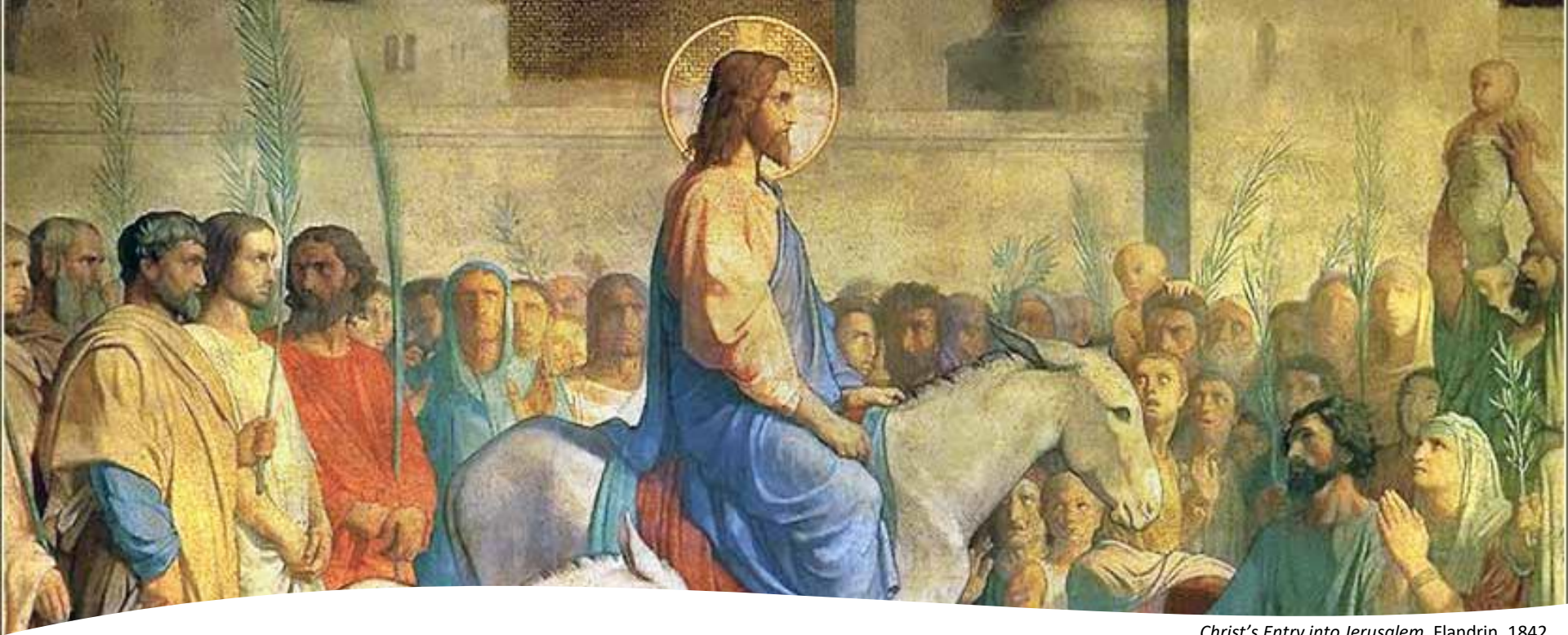
Christ Delivering the Keys to Peter, Perugino, 1481.

The Transfiguration & Exodus

- Peter, James & John see Jesus "transfigured" in glory on a mountaintop.
- Moses & Elijah. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount that He had come to fulfill the Law & the prophets.
- Spoke of "His exodus that He was going to accomplish in Jerusalem" (Lk 9:31). (Exodus (Greek 'departure') referring back to the Exodus of the Israelites.
- Prophets foretold a "righteous shoot" of David, who would lead a new exodus & gather all the scattered children of Israel into a new kingdom administered by God's appointed shepherds.
- Exodus: covenant between God & Israel at Sinai. Jeremiah prophesied that a new exodus will result in a "new covenant" (Jr 23:3-8;31:31-34). Jesus' Passion, death & Resurrection will be that new Exodus.
- Exodus liberated Israel; new exodus will liberate all peoples. Exodus freed Israel from bondage to Pharaoh; new exodus will free all mankind from slavery to sin & death.



The Transfiguration, Raphael, 1520.



Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, Flandrin, 1842.

The Entry into Jerusalem: Making a King's Entrance

- Entry into Jerusalem; Solomon's crowning as King (1 Kg 1).
- Jesus is proclaimed "son of David" like Solomon (Mt 21:9,15; Prov 1:1). Rides a colt; Solomon rode King David's mule (Mt 21:7; Kg 1:38, 44).
- Solomon is declared king by a rejoicing crowd (1 Kg 1:39-40); crowd greets Jesus spreading their cloaks on the road before Him, the Old Testament gesture of homage to a king (Mt 21:8; 2 Kg 9:13).



The Last Supper, Juan de Juanes, 1560.

The Passover

Passover before Exodus: symbolic ceremonial meal, ritual memorial for all time. Full meaning revealed at the last Supper.

Passover night:

- Rescuing Israel (Ex 4:22).
- The sacrificed lamb, the blood, unleavened bread, hyssop branch (Ex 12).
- To be lived annually by reading the Scriptural account of the first Passover & eating the lamb & unleavened bread.
- Marks birth as people of God made in Sinai covenant. Covenant ratified by blood of sacrificed animals. "This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you" (Ex 24:8).

The Last Supper:

- Passover meal the night before Jesus' "exodus." Bread is Jesus' Body, wine is "My blood of the covenant" (Mk 14:24).
- Jesus quotes Moses' words at Sinai (Ex 24:8); calls cup "the new covenant in My blood" (Lk 22:20).
- Eucharist: "memorial" of a new covenant. "Do this in memory of Me" (Lk 22:19). Remember salvation in ritual meal as Israel remembered salvation from Egypt.

The Paschal Lamb

Jesus' actual Passover takes place in His Passion, death & Resurrection.

Jesus:

- Is both Passover lamb & priest who offers the lamb in sacrifice.
- Is "The Lamb of God" (Jn 1:29).
- Is condemned on preparation day for Passover, about noon (time priests slaughtered Passover lambs) (Jn 19:14).
- Legs unbroken (Jn 19:33,36); legs of Passover lambs not to be broken (Ex 12:46; Nm 9:12; Ps 34:21).
- Tunic: (Jn 19:23). High priest's garment not to be torn. (Lev 16:4; 21:10). "Let's not tear it" (Jn 19:24).

The hyssop branch (Jn 19:29; Ex 12:22).

Passover lamb sacrificed so people of Israel could live; died in place of the first-born (Ex 12:1-23,27); Lamb of God dies so people of God might live, saved from their sins by "the blood of the Lamb" shed on the Cross (Rv 7:14; 12:11; 5:12).

"Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed," (1 Cor 5:7).

On the Cross, Jesus was "a spotless unblemished Lamb." By His "Precious Blood" we are "ransomed" from captivity to sin & death (1 Pt 1:18-19).



Sacrifice: Jesus & Isaac

Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross; Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac (Gn 22).

- **Calvary:** a hill of Mt Moriah.
- **Father & son:** Isaac is Abraham's only & beloved son (Gn 22:2,12,16); Jesus is called God's "beloved Son" at Baptism & Transfiguration (Mt 3:17; 17:5).
- **Isaac:** carried the wood for his sacrifice & bound to the wood; Jesus carried Cross & let men bind Him to it.
- **The Victim:** Abraham: "God himself will provide the lamb for the holocaust" (Gn 22:8). God did, at Calvary i His Son.
- Abraham: received Isaac back "on the 3rd day" (Gn 22:4). God: received His Son back from the dead on the 3rd day (1 Cor 15:4).
- In testing Abraham, God showed the Cross in advance; revealing His own Fatherly love, His faithfulness to His covenant promises, "You did not withhold from me your own beloved son" (Gn 22:12,15).; "He who did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all" (Rm 8:32).
- **Covenant oath:** Abraham's children to be as countless as the stars & through them God's blessings will flow upon all nations of the earth (Gn 22:15-18). God honours this covenant throughout salvation history: freeing Abraham's descendants from Egypt (Ex 2:24); establishing David's kingdom as an everlasting dynasty (2 Sam 7:8,10,11). Promise to Abraham fulfilled on the Cross. Offering His only begotten Son, God made it possible for everyone to be "children of Abraham" & heirs of the promised blessings.
- Jesus gave His life so "the blessings of Abraham might be extended to the Gentiles", ie, to all the peoples of the world, to all those who aren't children of Abraham by birth (Gal 3:14).
- By believing that Jesus is the Messiah, son of David, son of Abraham, all men & women are made "Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise" made by God to Abraham back on Mt Moriah (Gal 3:29).



Abraham and Isaac, Olivier, 1817.



The Temple

The true temple is Christ's Body.